

Weekly Encouragement

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Incorporated non-profit in New Jersey, USA

Uncomplicated

By Rev. Peter Eng



Do you wish you live a less complicated life?

"I would like an uncomplicated life," Joey thought, as he clicked on "it's complicated" when asked to choose if he is single, married, divorced, etc. He pauses as his mind wanders to how his life has become so complicated.

Middle-aged: the start of greying and thinning hair, declining virility, weakening eyes; Joey feels he needs a shot of life into his veins. So when this beautiful young lady took an interest in him, he is the luckiest man on earth. He feels young, and attractive, and virile once more. The marriage bed had become predictable, and if he would admit it, somewhat boring. JJ would make a trophy wife for any man, but as a no-strings-attached lover for a greying man, she is the grand prize of the mistress lottery.

This was six months ago. JJ is now pregnant. The strings are attached at some indistinct point. What a mess! But the ape in his loins is once more gibbering. JJ is now a complication, but Joey is at the FriendFinder looking for another woman. As things stand, his life is complicated. Regardless, he needs another life shot as badly as any junkie needs his shots.

His financial life is in a bigger mess. Joey drops his hands from the mouse as he thinks about his debt. "It's ok to be in such debt," he has been telling himself. "I will bite the bullet. When my business turns around, I can wipe out my debt in no time." But his stress of mounting debt is getting hard to rationalize away. "I must stop thinking about this," Joey decides, "otherwise, I will shrivel up. "

Joey has little reason to live for his family. The quarrel at home is constant. His children are doing poorly in school, and getting into trouble for shoplifting.

Joey feels a new lover will make him feel better. So here he is at the FriendFinder looking for a "friend with benefits," looking for a freebie that will bring the spring back to his steps.

He knows his life is complicated. But he doesn't know how to uncomplicate it. He yearns for an uncomplicated life. He is even willing to accept a boring life, if he could turn back the clock. As it is, there is no hope to uncomplicate his life. Now, he just

looks for a way to steal a little pleasure out of this complicated, messed-up life.

Joey jumps as the phone interrupts his thoughts. Mom is on the line. Mom is always good news. His gentle mom is his link to decency and hope. As they spoke, Mom asked, "Joey, it is Christmas. Won't you come to church with me?" "This is a tough question. He wants to say "Yes" to Mom, but he is planning for a tryst.

Sitting in the pew, Joey hears the preacher talk about Jesus freeing people from bondage. He knows he is in bondage. He knows he needs help. But can Jesus really help? Mom made sure Joey knows Jesus from a young age, but the lusts of the flesh are just too strong for Joey to resist. Yet, in his complicated darkness, he feels a stirring in him as he listens for those bits about how he can un-complicate his life.

His life is a mess. No, worse. It is an incredible ball of complicated knots. Today, he hears that Jesus is the Wonderful Counsellor. Yes, he needs that type of a counsellor. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. If anyone needs peace, he does. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. Joey looks over to his mother's glowing face and knows first-hand how God has straightened out his mother's life, the Jesus he learnt about only in his head is now sinking into his heart. "If I have God with me in my life, what a difference that will make!" Joey thought wishfully.

"No," he hears a voice, "All you need is more money. "This powerful argument comes from a familiar voice. But the Holy Spirit of God demands, "Joey, was it not money that got you into trouble in the first place? How many times did money get you into trouble? How often does it have to happen before you learn that money is not your answer?"

"That's true," Joey firmly concludes. "Money is not the answer. I can no longer believe that old lie that my problem is not

having enough money. "The light begins to shine into his darkened soul. He cannot give sex or money another chance. What he needs is Jesus. Today, Joey's eyes open for the first time. Today, he hears the message:

Come ye sinners poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity love and power.

Come ye weary heavy-laden,
Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better
You will never come at all.

I will arise and go to Jesus
He will embrace me in his arms
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh there are ten thousand charms!

[Song by Michael Card](#)

2011.12.25



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Rev. Peter Eng is an ordained minister from the Reformed Tradition, but he is truly global in perspective. He served the Lord in various capacities starting from his teenage years in the 70s. His undergrad studies were done in Singapore, his grad studies in the USA, and post-grad studies in the United Kingdom, with additional post-grad research in Germany.